

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180627 TOSEC 080139

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PORG, CY, TU

SUBJECT: STIMULATING MOVEMENT ON VAROSHA

REF: (A) ANKARA 5198, (B) STATE 179632

1. SUMMARY: TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL MET WITH ACTING
SECRETARY AND COUNSELOR NIMETZ JULY 17 TO DISCUSS HOW
TURKISH SIDE MIGHT PUT FORWARD VAROSHA PROPOSAL IN NEXT
FEW DAYS. ACTING SECRETARY PARTICIPATED IN VAROSHA PORTION
OF MEETING ONLY. NIMETZ ALSO PROVIDED DRAFT PRISONER
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TRANSFER TREATY (SEPTEL). ON INSTRUCTIONS, ESENBEL GAVE
BRIEFING ON JULY 4-5 TURKISH-GREEK MEETING IN ANKARA (ALSO
SEPTEL). END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR ESENBEL SAID HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS
BY TELEPHONE FOLLOWING JULY 17 MEETING BETWEEN CHARGE DILLON
AND MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG (REF A) TO REITERATE GOT HOPE THAT

USG WOULD MORE FORCEFULLY URGE SYG WALDHEIM TO CALL FOR EARLY RESUMPTION OF CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS. IT WAS TURKISH IMPRESSION THAT WALDHEIM WAS NOT WILLING TO DO SO AND HAD NOT YET BEEN SO PRESSED BY U.S. GIVEN WALDHEIM CURRENT TRAVEL AND LIKELY EARLY DEBATE IN SENATE ON TURKISH EMBARGO, ESENBEL SAID GOT FELT IT WAS PERHAPS BEST TO LEAVE WALDHEIM ASIDE AND PROCEED WITH EITHER STATEMENT BY DENKTASH

OR LETTER FROM HIM TO EITHER KYPRIANOU OR WALDHEIM ON VAROSHA WHICH COULD THEN BE MADE PUBLIC.

3. ESENBEL SAID PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT THOUGHT THAT IF SUCH A PUBLIC EXPRESSION WERE MADE BY DENKTASH, U.S. SHOULD PROVIDE HIGH LEVEL ENDORSEMENT OF AND SUPPORT FOR NEW TURKISH OFFER AND INDICATE U.S. REGARDED THIS STEP AS PROVIDING ADEQUATE BASIS FOR RESUMPTION OF CYPRUS TALKS. GOT ALSO HOPED U.S.G. COULD GIVE DENKTASH OFFER WIDE PUBLICITY.

4. ESENBEL SAID HE UNDERSTOOD U.S. WANTED TO SEE ADMINISTRATION OF VAROSHA TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY TO UN RATHER THAN PLACED UNDER TRIPARTITE FORMULA. THIS, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE DENKTASH COULD NOT ACCEPT IT NOR WOULD IT BE FEASIBLE IN A TURKISH DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTEXT. ESENBEL STRESSED THAT NEW TURKISH VAROSHA OFFER UNDER TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE WITH FINAL POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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DISPOSITION OF VAROSHA TO BE NEGOTIATED AS PART OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT REPRESENTED NEW, POSITIVE STEP FORWARD, BUT ALSO REFLECTED THE LIMIT AT THIS TIME OF TURKISH AND TURKISH CYPRIOT FLEXIBILITY. ESENBEL STRESSED THAT IN A NEGOTIATING SITUATION, THE TURKISH SIDE WAS PREPARED TO BE VERY FLEXIBLE ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES. ESENBEL URGED THAT WE LET THE GOT KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO GIVE U.S. HIGH LEVEL SUPPORT SO THAT DENKTASH COULD PROCEED QUICKLY PRIOR TO THE SENATE DEBATE.

5. ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER STRESSED THAT TURKISH EMBARGO ISSUE WAS BEING GIVEN VERY HIGH PRIORITY. HE HAD MET WITH SENATOR BYRD JULY 14 AND HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE MAJORITY LEADER'S PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT ON THIS ISSUE, IN PART AS A RESULT OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO EUROPE. HE NOTED REMARKS WHICH SENATOR BYRD HAD MADE ON TELEVISION JULY 16. IT WAS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT MANY SENATORS WHO WANTED TO BE HELPFUL WERE ANXIOUS TO SEE MORE MOVEMENT FROM THE TURKISH SIDE IN ORDER TO PERSUADE THOSE WHO WERE STILL ON THE FENCE. ACTING SECRETARY SAID THAT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF TURKISH MOVEMENT WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL WITH HOUSE LEADERSHIP, WHO WERE ALSO LOOKING FOR A CHANGE OF

CIRCUMSTANCES AND FURTHER EVIDENCE OF TURKISH GOOD FAITH. ACTING SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT BYRD AND OTHERS WOULD PUT TO EFFECTIVE USE GOOD TURKIS; STATEMENT BUT THAT FORMULATION WAS VERY IMPORTANT. WE THOUGHT IT SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT UN WOULD BE OUT FRONT AND IN CONTROL. THIS WOULD PRECLUDE IMPRESSION THAT TURKISH TROOPS AND TURKISH PRESENCE WOULD BE SO OBVIOUS THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO VAROSHA. ACTING

SECRETARY URGED THAT ESENBEL ASK ANKARA TO ATTEMPT RE-FORMULATE STATEMENT IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE FAVORABLE LIGHT SO AS TO ACCOMPLISH OUR SHARED PURPOSE. HE SAID THAT DEGREE TO WHICH WE COULD SUPPORT TURKISH STATEMENT WOULD DEPEND ON HOW MUCH STRESS WAS PLACED ON UN ROLE. CONFIDENTIAL

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CHRISTOPHER AGREED THAT STATEMENT BY MID WEEK WAS IMPORTANT, BUT THAT IT WAS ALSO VERY IMPORTANT THAT STATEMENT BE COUCHED IN RIGHT TERMS TO AVOID CRITICISM.

6. ESENBEL SAID HE ACCEPTED THAT FURTHER STATEMENT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE USEFUL, BUT STRESSED AGAIN THAT ECEVIT AND DENKTASH COULD NOT ACCEPT PURELY UN ADMINISTRATIVE ROLE. BUT HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT STRESS IN STATEMENT COULD BE ON KEY UN SWING ROLE WHILE STILL ALLOWING SOME ROLE IN LOCAL ADMINISTRATION TO BE ASSIGNED TO TURKISH AND GREEK CYPRIOTS. BEFORE LEAVING MEETING ACTING SECRETARY ASKED ESENBEL TO CALL HIM DIRECTLY IF HE FELT IT NECESSARY AND STRESSED THAT THIS MATTER WAS VERY HIGH ON WEEK'S AGENDA. HE THOUGHT THAT TURKISH EMBARGO DEBATE IN SENATE WOULD PROBABLY NOW NOT BEGIN UNTIL JULY 20 AT EARLIEST AND MIGHT BE DELAYED UNTIL JULY 21 OR WEEK OF JULY 24.

7. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT HOW TURKISH POSITION WAS FORMULATED WAS VERY IMPORTANT. WE WERE NOT SEEKING TO NEGOTIATE VAROSHA IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS. WE COULD RECOGNIZE THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SOME TURKISH ROLE BUT WE FELT IT VITAL TO ASSIGN PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO UN. NIMETZ PROVIDED ESENBEL WITH INFORMAL DRAFT OF POSSIBLE DENKTASH-KYPRIANOU LETTER (REF B) NOTING THAT TEXT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO MFA IN ANKARA. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT THE U.S. STRONGLY PREFERS THAT TRIPARTITE ARRANGEMENT BE AVOIDED BUT DOES FEEL THAT DETAILS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT LATER. KEY POINT WAS THAT FORMULATION SHOULD NOT LEAVE NEGATIVE IMPRESSION, SHOULD NOT USE WORD "TRIPARTITE", AND SHOULD GIVE UN PRE-EMINENT RESPONSIBILITY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT TIMING IS IMPORTANT. POSSIBILITIES FOR U.S. SUPPORT FOR TURKISH INITIATIVE ON VAROSHA WERE GOOD, ALTHOUGH NO FINAL COM-CONFIDENTIAL

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MITMENT COULD BE MADE UNTIL WE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT DENKTASH WOULD SAY. WE ALSO HOPED THAT DENKTASH WOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO ELABORATE BEYOND PREPARED STATEMENT OR LETTER IN WAYS WHICH WOULD CAUSE OTHER PROBLEMS.

8. ESENBEL SAID HE WOULD REPORT FULLY TO ANKARA AND PROMISED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT.

9. WITH REGARD REFTEL B DRAFT SUGGESTED DENKTASH-KYPRIANOU LETTER (PARA 4) PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS TO MFA:

A) PARA 4 C SHOULD END WITH QUOTATION MARK.

B) CHANGE FIRST SENTENCE PARA 4 E TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
WITH THE ABOVE IN MIND, I WANT TO PUT FORWARD THE
FOLLOWING.

C) CHANGE PARA 4 G TO READ: I HOPE THAT IN A SPIRIT OF
RECONCILIATION YOU WILL ENCOURAGE THE SECRETARY GENERAL
TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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